Rebecca Buck

To: Peggy Farabaugh

Subject: RE: Testimony for the Senate Appropriations Committee re: Working Lands Support

Thank you for your email and photo.

From: Peggy Farabaugh [mailto:peggy@vermontwoodsstudios.com]

Sent: Monday, April 02, 2018 10:17 AM

To: Rebecca Buck

Subject: Testimony for the Senate Appropriations Committee re: Working Lands Support

Dear Senators,

I write to express my deepest gratitude and urge your continued support of the Working Lands program. My company, <u>Vermont Woods Studios</u> was a recipient of the first round of awards. We received a \$100,000 grant that pushed us through the finish line on a \$1.2 Million <u>showroom</u> for Vermont Made furniture and home decor in Vernon. Through our small business we are able to employ 15 full time employees in Vernon & 4 part-time digital marketing consultants in Burlington. In addition approximately 20 full time furniture makers are kept employed full time by the companies who build our furniture (including Copeland Furniture, Lyndon Furniture, Maple Corner Woodworks and Vermont Furniture Designs).

Our 2018 strategic plan includes a 10% growth rate goal.

I believe we truly can & should make Vermont the Fine Furniture Capital of America. Our state has a wonderful tradition of fine woodworking, however we in the industry are vulnerable in today's hypercompetitive market. The Internet makes imports and Amish furniture serious threats to our industry's growth. Your continued support is crucial to our success in the forest products & woodworking sector.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the people of our state.

Respectfully,

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Peggy Farabaugh, Owner <u>Vermont Woods Studios</u> 538 Huckle Hill Road Vernon VT 05354 <u>802.579.1302</u> <u>Today's Promotions</u>









